

The Good Shepherd



Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

Church Campus: 7610 NE Fremont Street, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503.290.6316 – call /text)
School Campus: 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text)
Preschool: 2252 SE 92nd Street, ECE Director Tammy Godish (503.312.4230 – call /text)

The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21st, 2024

Grace ~ "I am not ashamed of the gospel..."



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

Grace ~ "These are written that you may believe..."







Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God's Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Grace ~ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."




Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God's grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Pt. 3:18**


INVOCATION & CONFESSION

- M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Great Good Shepherd, your greatness is beyond our highest praise! As we gather as your flock to worship you make us to lie down in green pastures of your promises, lead us beside the quiet waters of your comfort, restore our souls with the power the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, and lead us in paths of righteousness for your name’s sake.
- C:  *The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever. (CW21#552 vs.1)*
- C:  *Where streams of living water flow,
My Savior gently leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feeds me. (vs. 2)*
- M: Almighty and merciful Father,
C: **We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**
- C:  *Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid
And home, rejoicing, brought me. (vs. 3)*
- C:  *In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me,
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me. (vs. 4)*

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever! “Rejoice in the LORD and celebrate, all you righteous, and shout joyfully, all you upright in heart.” (Psalm 32:11)

C:  *You spread a table in my sight,
A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight;
My cup is overflowing! (vs. 5)*

C:  *And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever! (vs. 6)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father’s house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

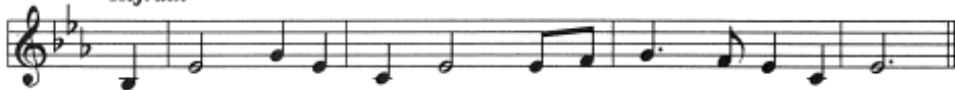
FIRST LESSON

Acts 20:28-32

²⁸ “Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves, who will not spare the flock, will come in among you. ³⁰ Even from your own group men will rise up, twisting the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be always on the alert! Remember that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

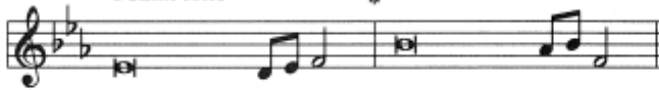
³² “And now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which has power to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Refrain



The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

Psalm tone



The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*
he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:1-6

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. ⁴You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. ⁵They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 7:17

Alleluia. Alleluia. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Alleluia.

HYMN:

CW21 #804: "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

*I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.*

*Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.*

*Who so happy as I am,
Even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast,
There within his arms to rest.*

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵ (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

CWRed#374: “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

*My shepherd will supply my need --Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back, when I forsake his ways
And leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

*When I walk through the shades of death, His presence is my stay;
One word of his supporting breath, drives all my fears away.
His hand, in sight of all my foes, will still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows; His oil anoints my head.*

*The sure provisions of my God, attend me all my days;
Oh, may his house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come,
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.*

OUR THANKSGIVING

OUR OFFERING

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Hebrews 13:20-21

M: Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

CW21 Blue #626: "My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness"

*My heart is filled with thankfulness - to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly;
Whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who reigns above,
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth iss given by the King;
So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow him.*